

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02291 091139Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 DODE-00
ERDA-07 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /110 W
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P 090907Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 234
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 2291

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PK, MNUC, PARM

SUBJ: BHUTTO PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF PM BHUTTO'S COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR
ISSUES MADE IN COURSE HIS PRESS CONFERENCE EVENING MARCH 8.

Q.: MR. PRIME MINISTER, I AM MYSELF A GERMAN CORRESPONDENT
AND I THINK I HAVE A CERTAIN IDEA WHAT PRESSURE THE
WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT PUTS ON THE BONN GOVERNMENT REGARDING
THE NUCLEAR DEAL BETWEEN WEST GERMANY AND BRAZIL. NOW,
HAS THAT KIND OF PRESSURE INCREASED IN PAKISTAN IN THE
CONTEXT OF YOUR ORDER FOR THE FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT?

A.: NOW, YOU SEE THE POINT IS THAT FACT... UM...THE...
QUESTION AROSE IN THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. IT
BECAME A LIVE ISSUE THEN; I MEAN IT BECAME AN ACTIVE ISSUE.
AT THAT TIME THE AMERICANS WERE HAVING THEIR ELECTIONS.
WELL, WHEN THEIR ELECTIONS WERE OVER, SOON WE WERE TO HAVE
OUR ELECTIONS. AND CERTAINLY WE CANNOT DISCUSS THESE MATTERS
WHILE WE ARE HAVING ELECTIONS. NOW THAT ELECTIONS ARE OVER
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IN OUR COUNTRIES., I SUPPOSE THAT AT SOME STAGE PAKISTANAND
THE UNITED STATES WILL ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE ON THIS MATTER,
BECAUSE THE AMERICANS HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN A DISCUSSION
ON THE SUBJECT AND WE ARE PREPARED FOR A DISCUSSION ON THE
SUBJECT.

Q.: (SAME GERMAN REPORTER)-- MAY I FURTHER ASK, MR. PRIME

MINISTER, WOULD THAT INDICATE THAT YOU COULD IMAGINE A SITUATION IN WHICH YOU WOULD, SAY RENOUNCE THE DEAL AND WE DO NOT GO AHEAD WITH THE ORDER?

A.: NO, I ... HOW CAN YOU GO SO FAR. I MEAN YOU'VE PUT ME ONE QUESTION AND JUMPED TO A CONSLUSION. I'M NOT GOING TO JUMP TO ANY CONCLUSIONS. I HAVE SAID I AM PREPARED FOR A DISCUSSION, A BONA FIDE, GENUINE DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT. AND BEYOND THAT I CANNOT SAY AT THIS POINT OF TIME. YOU KNOW, WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FRENCH AND I AM PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE AGREEMENT THREADBARE WITH THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION. BEYOND THAT I CANNOT SAY.

Q.: (CANADIAN REPORTER)- MR. PRIME MINISTER, TO GO BACK TO THE NUCLEAR SUBJECT, CAN YOU FORESEE ANY REOPENING OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THE PROBLEM THAT YOU HAVE THERE?

A.: WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHY THE CANADIANS TOOK SUCH A STRONG POSITION ON THIS MATTER. WE HAVE VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE CANADIANS, BUT THE CANADIANS FEEL THAT THEY'VE BURNT THEIR FINGERS IN RELATION TO THEIR NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH THE INDIANS, AND AS SUCH THEY ARE VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT FUTURE AGREEMENTS AND SO I DON'T ANTICIPATE ANY MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER.

Q.: (CANADIAN REPORTER AGAIN) - HAS, SIR, ... HAS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE CANADIANS DEALT WITH YOU IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS BY CUTTING OFF PARTS AND OTHER THINGS FOR YOUR UNCLASSIFIED

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REACTOR -- HAS THAT CREATED PROBLEMS FOR YOU HERE IN PAKISTAN?

A.: NOT YET. IT HAS NOT CREATED ANY PROBLEMS FOR US SO FAR AND WE ARE TAKING CARE OF THE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE, IN THE FUTURE.

2. EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL.
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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